

***Post Communion Blessing**
***Prayer After Communion:**

Pastor: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

***Blessing**

Pastor: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, + bless you now and always **C: Amen.**

***Recessional Hymn:** **Jesus, Still Lead On** **LBW 341**

***Dismissal**

Pastor: Go in peace. Believe the good news. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please keep the following in your prayers:
Dave Lamar Carolyn Pinos Emma Rosman
Cheryl Sherbine Keith Sherbine

Today Gary Mickle authorized lay worship leader in the Allegheny Synod ELCA, will distribute the gifts of bread and wine.

First Communion Classes are to be held in April. If your child/family member is in grade 2 or above and would like to participate, please contact Brenda Kerch.

Fish Fry dates: March 6 and March 20. More information on insert.

Next social hour will March 1, following church. The youth families will be hosting. Thank you. If you would like to host in the future, a host is to organize the day. If you would like reimbursed for your expenses, please save your receipts and give them to Dan Kerch.

Next Council meeting will be on Monday, March 2nd, at 6:30 pm.

If you would like anything in the bulletin, please contact Sonny Kerch. If you would like something in the newsletter, please contact Sharon Cordwell.

If anyone in need of Pastoral care, please call the Allegheny Synod Office, at (814) 942-1042 to make needed arrangements.

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Worship Sunday at 9:00 am

First Sunday in Lent February 22, 2026



Communion Hospitality

Lutheran Christians believe Christ is truly present in his supper. By faith we receive his Body and Blood “in, with, and under” the forms: of bread and wine for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. All baptized Christians who desire to receive Jesus in his sacrament, are welcome to commune.

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Setting I

Parish Announcements

Prelude

*= **Stand** (*The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*)

***Announcements:**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **C: Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection. Please kneel as you are able.

Pastor: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

Pastor: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ; and forgives your sin in +Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others; and bless you with the gift of peace. **C: Amen.**

***Entrance Hymn:** **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross** **LWB 482**

***Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

***Kyrie** **p. 57**

***Prayer of the Day:** **Pastor:** The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18 L: The word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**
Psalm 2 (Read Responsively)

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21 L: The word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**
***The Lenten Tract** "Return to the Lord" **p. 63**

***Holy Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9** **C: Glory to you O Lord**

C: Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

***Hymn of the Day** **O Lord, throughout Theses Forty Days** **LBW 99**

***Nicene Creed** **p. 64**

***Prayers of the Church**

Pastor: Merciful God **C: Your mercy is great.**

***Passing of Peace** **Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**
The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord; and then be seated.

Offering *The offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

***Offertory** "Let the Vineyards" **p. 66**

***Offertory Prayer**

Pastor: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **C: Amen.**

Liturgy of Holy Communion

***Great Thanksgiving and Sanctus** **p. 68**

***When our brothers and sisters at Zion Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg gathered for worship, they heard again the story of God's mighty acts and the love shown to us in Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension, and they shared the holy meal of the Lord's Supper. Now, I bring to you this same word of life, and this same bread and cup of blessing, so that we may share these gifts and be strengthened in communion with all the people of God.**

Gathered at the Lord's table, our brothers and sisters in Christ celebrated with thanksgiving that in the night in which Jesus was betrayed, he took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take and eat; this is my body given to for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." This is the supper our Lord Jesus Christ, and this meal is shared with assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of the Holy Spirit. This bread and cup, shared in the gathering of our faith, are now given here for you.

***The Lord's Prayer**

***Invitation to Communion:**

Pastor: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

***Agnes Dei** "Lamb of God" **p. 72**

*As bread and wine is given, these words are said to each communicant:
'The body of Christ, given for you.' & 'The blood of Christ, shed for you.'*
After each, the communicant may say: 'Amen.'

Distribution of Communion

Communion Hymn: **I Want Jesus to Walk with Me** **WOV 660**